

### Some Big Things.

Kentucky has no great fresh-water lakes, but it has great whisky distilleries, and the natives do not feel the loss of fresh water much.

The biggest royal eater since the death of the Emperor Maximilian is Cotey, King of the Zulus. He ate thirteen pounds of steak for a dinner.

The greatest cornet-player is Levy. He measures fifty-six inches around the chest, and is said to have the largest lungs of any musician in the world.

The best record in a six-days go-as-you-please race is that made by George Hazael, who covered 6000 miles in Madison Square Garden on March 4 of this year.

The largest diamond-cutting house is in Amsterdam, where they employ 400 men. The famous Kohinoor diamond was cut there. The cutters make from \$7 to \$12, and even \$14 a day.

The largest suspension bridge will be the one now building between Brooklyn and New York. The length of the main span is 1,595 feet 6 inches. The entire length of the bridge is 5,989 feet.

The Pennsylvania Railroad's new locomotive Jumbo has 7-foot driving wheels, and has drawn a train from Philadelphia to Jersey City, a distance of 90 miles, in 80 minutes.

Mr. John Sayer, of Danielsville, Ga., recently killed a large hawk. It measured four feet ten inches from tip to tip of its wings, and 54 inches from the tip of the front to the tip of the back claw.

Jumbo is the largest elephant in the civilized world. He is 11 feet 6 inches in height. The measurement of his ears when outspread is 15 feet, and he can reach upward twenty-six feet with his trunk.

Fortress Monroe is the largest single fortification in the world. It has already cost the Government over \$3,000,000. The water battery is considered one of the finest military works in the world.

The loftiest active volcano is Popocatepetl (smoking mountain), thirty-five miles southwest of Puebla, Mexico. It is 17,784 feet above the sea level, and has a crater three miles in circumference and 1,000 feet deep.

The longest span of wire is used for a telegraph in India over the River Kistnah, between Bezarah and Setaanagram. It is more than 6,000 feet long, and is stretched between two hills, each 1,200 feet high.

The largest university is Oxford, in Oxford, England. It consists of twenty-five colleges and five halls. Oxford was the seat of learning in the time of Edward the Confessor. It claims to have been founded by Alfred.

The largest ship is the Great Eastern. She is 680 feet long, 83 feet broad, and 60 feet deep, being 22,927 tons burden, 18,915 gross, and 13,344 net register. She was built at Millwall, on the Thames, and was launched January 31, 1867.

Mr. Jacob G. Rupp, near Camp Hill, Pa., has a cornstalk that measures 14 feet 7 inches, and is not done growing yet. He says that a number of stalks will measure fourteen feet, and the whole field will average from twelve to thirteen feet.

The most extensive park is Deer Park, in the environs of Copenhagen, Denmark. The inclosure contains about 4,200 acres, and is divided by a small river. The largest pleasure ground in this country is Fairmont Park, Philadelphia, which contains 2,740 acres.

Orange county, New York, and Sussex county, New Jersey, make more applejack in one year than any other two counties in the United States. Last year 120,000 gallons were made, and the Government got \$100,000 revenue. This year the estimate is 40,000 gallons.

The largest body of fresh water on the globe is Lake Superior. It is 400 miles long, 160 miles wide at its greatest breadth, and has an area of 32,000 square miles. Its mean depth is said to be 200 feet, and its greatest depth about 300 fathoms. Its surface is 635 feet above the sea.

The largest tunnel in the world is that of St. Gothard, on the line of the railroad between Lucerne and Milan. The summit of the tunnel is 990 feet below the surface at Adermatt, and 6,600 feet beneath the peak of Kastelhorn, of the St. Gothard group. The tunnel is 26 1/2 feet wide, and 19 feet 10 inches from the floor to the crown of the arched roof. It is 9 1/2 miles long, 7-6 mile longer than the Mt. Cenis Tunnel.

The most extensive cavern is the Mammoth Cave, in Edmondson county, Ky. It is near Green river, six miles from Cave City, and about twenty-eight miles from Bowling Green. The cave consists of a succession of irregular chambers, some of which are large, situated on different levels. Some of these are traversed by navigable branches of the subterranean Echo river. Blind fish are found in its waters.

The largest trees are the mammoth trees in California. One of a grove in Tulare county, according to measurement made by members of the State Geological Survey, was shown to be 276 feet high, 106 feet in circumference at base, and 76 feet at a point twelve feet above the ground. Some of the trees are 376 feet high and 34 feet in diameter. Some of the largest that have been felled indicate an age of from 2,000 to 2,500 years.

The largest inland sea is the Caspian, lying between Europe and Asia. Its greatest length is 760 miles, its greatest breadth 270 miles, and its area 180,000 square miles. Great Salt Lake, in Utah, which may be properly termed an inland sea, is about 90 miles long, and has a varying breadth of from 20 to 25 miles. Its surface is 4,200 feet above the sea, whereas the surface of the Caspian is 84 feet below the ocean level.

The largest Empire in the world is that of Great Britain, comprising 8,567,658 square miles, more than a sixth part of the land of the globe, and embracing under its rule nearly a sixth part of the population of the world. In territorial extent the United States ranks third, containing 3,580,252 square miles, including Alaska; in population it ranks fourth with its 50,000,000 people.—Russia ranks second, 8,343,540 square miles.

The highest monolith is the obelisk at Karnak, Egypt. Karnak is on the east bank of the Nile, near Luxor, and occupies a part of the site of an ancient Thebes. The obelisk is ascribed to Hatshepsut, sister of Pharaoh Thothmes III., who reigned about 1600 B. C. Its whole length is 122 feet, its weight 400 tons.—Its height, without pedestal, is 108 feet 10 inches. The height of the obelisk in Central Park, without pedestal, is 68 feet 11 inches; its weight about 168 tons.

The Chinese wall is the largest wall in the world. It was built by the first Emperor of the Tsin dynasty, about 220 B. C., as a protection against Tartars. It traverses the northern boundary of China, and is carried over the highest hills, through the deepest valleys, across rivers, and every other natural obstacle. Its length is 1,250 miles. Including a parapet of 5 feet, the total height of the wall is 20 feet, thickness at the base 25 feet, and at the top 15 feet. Towers or bastions occur at intervals of about 100 yards.

The largest library is the Bibliotheque National in Paris, founded by Louis XIV. It contains 1,400,000 volumes, 300,000 pamphlets, 175,000 manuscripts, 300,000 maps and charts, and 150,000 coins and medals. The collection of engravings exceeds 1,300,000, contained in some 10,000 volumes. The building which contains these treasures is situated on the Rue Richelieu. Its length is 540 feet, its breadth 130 feet. The largest library in New York, in respect of separate works, is the Astor. About 190,000 volumes are on its shelves.

Among the most remarkable natural echoes is that of Eagle's Nest, on the banks of Killarney, in Ireland, which repeats a bugle call until it seems to be sounded from a hundred instruments; and that on the banks of the Naha, between Bingen and Coblenz, which repeats a sound seventeen times. The most remarkable artificial echo known is that in the Castle of Simonetta, about two miles from Milan. It is occasioned by the existence of two parallel walls of considerable length. It repeats the report of a pistol sixty times.

The largest bell in the world is the great bell of Moscow, at the foot of the Kremlin. Its circumference at the bottom is nearly sixty-eight feet, and its height more than twenty-one feet. In its stoutest part it is twenty-three inches thick, and its weight has been computed to be 443,772 pounds. It has never been rung, and was probably cast on the spot where it now stands. A piece of the bell is broken off. The fracture is supposed to have been occasioned by water having been thrown upon it when heated by the building erected over it being on fire.

The big bridge across the Kinzua-chasm on the Erie extension, fifteen miles south of Bradford, Pa., was completed about two weeks ago, and trains will soon be running over it. The bridge is a symmetrical iron structure, and is the highest in the world, the center span being 301 feet in height, and the length of the structure is 2,060 feet. It was built by the Keystone Bridge Company, of Phoenixville, Pa. The completion of this bridge gives the New York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad direct communication to the coal fields of Western Pennsylvania.

Mr. Z. O. Talmadge, of Jefferson, Morris county, N. J., has a plant in his garden which contains fifty-five sunflowers in full bloom. This is believed to surpass anything of the kind in the State. He also has three plants over nine feet high. The most successful sunflower raiser in Patterson is Captain H. M. Bennett, of Hamburg avenue. The other day he showed the writer a stem six inches long that bore ten fully developed flowers. He has flowers in bloom varying in diameter from the size of a trade dollar to the largest sized dinner-plate. All the Captain's flowers are from seeds that he brought from Mexico.

The largest cathedral in the world is St. Peter's in Rome. From the laying of its foundation in 1450 until its dedication, 170 years were consumed in its erection; and if we include the work done under Pius VI., three and a half centuries passed before it was complete, during which time forty-three Popes reigned. The dimensions of the church are: Length of the interior, 613 1/2 feet; of transept from wall to wall, 46 1/2 feet; height of nave, 152 1/2 feet; of side aisles, 47 feet; width of nave, 77-89 feet; of side aisles, 33 1/2 feet; circumference of pillars which support the dome, 253 feet. The height of the dome from the pavement to the base of the lantern is 405 feet; to the top of the cross, 448 feet. The dome is encircled and strengthened by six bands of iron. A stairway leads to the roof, broad and easy enough to allow a horse and team to ascend. The annual cost of keeping the church in repair is 30,000 scudi.

Mr. Joseph Baker, of Lancaster, Pa., has a tomato that measures seventeen inches in circumference, five and a half inches in diameter, and weighs two and one-fourth pounds. Four tomatoes very nearly as large as this one have grown on the same stalk, and the united weight of the five is 10 1/2 pounds. They are of the Paterson variety.

—New York Sun.

### GLEANINGS.

Milford, Mass., has a seventeen year-old boy who weighs 285 pounds and can raise 1,560 pounds on a health lift.

General Grant is said to be growing old very fast; to have lost his military bearing, and to become round-shouldered and adipose.

It is estimated that over one-half of the new manufacturing started in the south during the past two years belong to northern capitalists.

It is said to be difficult to obtain teachers for the Pennsylvania schools this year. The cause is conjectured to be the smallness of the salary.

A vindictive horse in Savannah, Ga., saw a cunning cow stealing his oats. He rushed upon her and bit off three inches of her tongue. The cow lives, but shuns the horse.

A Judge at Lyons, N. Y., has sentenced a prisoner to be hung on a Thursday. He claims credit for breaking away from the superstition attached to Friday, the hangman's day.

Crazed by the conduct of her two daughters, a woman chopped off one of her hands at Parkville, Conn., striking not less than a dozen blows with a hatchet.

Marvin, Virginia's champion bla-

mist, now in jail at Richmond, had an altercation with one of the inmates the other day, and in the fight was badly injured.

Most of the mechanics of the rural towns of California are struggling with patents of devices to apply to two-wheeled carts so as to overcome the objectionable bobbing motion of the ordinary dog carts.

The model for the statue of General Robert E. Lee, which is to crown the monumental shaft in Lee place, New Orleans, has been completed. It is said to be an excellent likeness, and is the work of Alexander Doyle, a local sculptor.

Young ladies of England having shown a desire to make palmistry the next sensational folly, the London Truth calls attention to an unrepented act of Parliament which imposes upon all who go about practicing the art the penalty of being scourged, having the ears cropped and being placed in the pillory.

George Chamberlain, member of the state board of equalization, has left with the Historical society for inspection a stone dug up in the town of Enterprise, Jackson Co., Ill., by a Mr. Lester while digging a post hole. It is about four inches in length and one in width, and has carved on it rudely the letters M. K. and on the other side 1777.

A Cincinnati has written a pamphlet recounting the events of "the war of 1886" between the United States and Great Britain. The result of the war is the defeat of the United States. The object of the pamphlet is to arouse attention to the fact that the national defenses have been neglected and the army and navy permitted to become inefficient.

Mrs. Mary Anderson, aged 79 years, lost her way on Lookout mountain, Walker county, Virginia, and for eight days wandered aimlessly about, exposed to a pitiless rain storm, which raged almost constantly. When at last discovered she was cowering in a cave near the banks of Little river, nearly dead. She will probably recover.

About two years ago Commodore Watson, of the DeBary line, on the St. John's river, Florida, directed that no more shooting be allowed from his boats. This is done not only for the protection of the passengers, but that the game should not be driven from the banks of the river. The order has had a good effect, and now the alligators and birds may be seen as of yore.

The San Antonio Express reports a case at the hospital there. A Mexican was brought in sometime ago, who was bitten by a centipede. The leg on which he was bitten was treated and cured; but since then the man has begun to drink spirits, and the old wound has broken out afresh, and the gangrened flesh is now dropping off the leg where the centipede touched.

A professor of chemistry in the medical department of Bishop's College, Montreal, has made the astonishing discovery that rheumatism is nothing more than one phase of indigestion, and he recommends an eight day fast as an infallible cure. For the ordinary man an eight days' fast would be an infallible cure for everything except the sins of a mispent life.

China is something of a country. It has four canals, equal to all the rest in the world. Some of them are five thousand years old; the longest was dug six hundred years ago, and is twice as long as the Erie canal. That Titanic wall of defense, the Chinese wall, was built more than one hundred years B. C.; it is from twenty to thirty feet high, and fifteen hundred miles long, and represents more labor than any other structure on the globe.

Inventor Edison tells a reporter that he does not believe a submarine telephone comes within the region of possibilities. He says: "The present condition of the art will not permit sound to be audible by submarine or underground conveyance more than a few miles. It is all they can do to talk across the English Channel, and that with the very best instrument yet constructed."

The English Educational Department has just published a circular in which it lays down the principle in instruction that, as a general rule, but especially in the lower standards, the examiner should be careful rather to ask for the meaning of short sentences and phrases than to require explanations of single words by definitions or synonyms. The circular mentions "Robinson Crusoe" as one of the reading books for schools authorized by the department.

A number of physicians and other citizens of Boston have united in a circular addressed to the teachers of that city, urging them to use all their influence and authority to suppress the use of tobacco among the children in their schools. There is no doubt that this habit is becoming more and more prevalent among children, to whom it is equally certain to be injurious. The makers of cheap cigarettes are largely responsible for this condition of affairs, which is attracting much anxious consideration on both sides of the Atlantic.

The most beautiful woman in the world is said to be Mme. Gautherot, the American wife of a rich Paris importer. She is twenty-six years of age. Her head is strictly classical, and she wears her fair wavy tresses in Grecian bandeaux. In form she is faultless—the Venus de Medici transmuted into flesh and blood. As lately seen at a reception in Paris she was dressed in corn colored silk, part of which was covered with a net work of yellow beads and bugles. She wore a necklace of diamonds, a brooch and bracelet, and diamond buckles on her shoes. Her dress fitted her form as a glove should fit the hand, and her skirts clung about her limbs in the most classic fashion. Her eyes are large and limpid, and show not the slightest sentiment of coquetry, and the texture of her ears, neck and shoulders is of that kind which the great artists paint so magnificently.

"A poor relation is the most irrelevant thing in nature—a piece of impertinent correspondence; an odious approximation; a haunting conscience; a preposterous shadow lengthening into a noontide of our prosperity; an unwelcome remembrance; a perpetually recurring mortification; a drain on your purse; a drawback upon success; a rebuke to your rising; a stain in your blood; a blot on your escutcheon; a rent in your garment; a death's head at your banquet; Agathocles' pot; a Mordecai at your gate; a Lazarus at your door; a lion in your path; a frog in your chamber; a fly in your ointment; a mote in your eye; a triumph to your enemy; an apology to your friends; the one thing not needful; the hail in harvest; the ounce of sour in a pound of sweet." This paragraph is going the rounds and credited to the London Society. Oh, shades of the departed Charles Lamb!

Visit To an Egyptian Princess.

I generally found the Princess coiled up on a divan, attired more simply than her attendants, for she usually dressed in white, as her husband preferred it. Her jewels surpassed anything I ever saw; they were both quaint and valuable. The Princess I refer to was the first who ever introduced the fashion of birds and butterflies, made in precious stones, as ornaments for the head. I was with her one day when she was giving an order to a Frenchwoman to have several made for her in Paris. She selected them out of a book, and chose those of the brightest plumage. In those days visits were always long; you were generally expected to remain three or four hours. A short visit was looked on as not polite.

These beautifully dressed slaves handed chibouques (long pipes) to the visitors, and then others entered, carrying a tray draped and covered in velvet, embroidered in gold, with long gold fringes, while others poured out the coffee in small china cups, like our egg cups without the shank, and then placed them in gold "zarfs" set with precious stones. I have seen zarfs with large rubies and emeralds, worth I don't know how much, in this Princess' harem, and in filigree gold of the most exquisite workmanship, and all done by native workmen. When you had finished your coffee, the slave came and took your cup, placing her hand on the top of the cup and holding the foot of the zarf with the other hand, making you a slight salutation, which you returned by putting your hand to your lips and head.

After this, you conversed a little, in a sleepy fashion, as silence is golden in the East, and talkative people are not appreciated there. Then come the dancing girls and the musicians, who play a wild kind of music, very unmusical to our ears, but seeming to give them intense pleasure, judging by the movements of the dancers. These girls are generally dressed in a kind of tinsel, and are most of them very young. The most wonderful feat they perform is taking a small coin off the floor with their mouths, bending back their bodies in a perfect arch without touching their hands, with their head thrown backward. This dance lasts about an hour and a half.

I have seen them dance our "lancers," which was very funny. They were danced in a much more elaborate style than we ever dance them. The Princess had this dance for me, in compliment to my country, and she turned to me and said: "This is the way you English ladies dance." I tried to disabuse her mind of such an idea. Whether I succeeded or not, I am sure I don't know. In the East they look on dancing as a menial occupation, and therefore cannot understand ladies and gentlemen indulging in such things and calling it amusement.

There is one very erroneous idea about Eastern people which I have read in several books, written by persons who had no practical experience of their habits and customs; which is, that they are very generous and give handsome presents. I can only say my opinion is quite the reverse, as I never received a present from one of them, and when I asked a lady the cause of it, she replied: "They hold you in too high esteem to dare to offer you anything." On one occasion I presented a lady to the Princess, and to my horror, this lady intimated to the interpreter that she would like a Turkish costume; the next morning she received a magnificent one at her hotel; so that this proves that those who have had presents ask for them, and that these Turkish ladies throw the Christian "dog" (as they term us) a bone in the shape of a costume or jewel. I should prefer my self-respect to all their cast-off finery. There was a lady who was always boasting that she had such lovely presents from the Princess, and when some one asked the Princess why she liked this person so much, she replied: "Why, I don't like her at all, nor do I respect her."

"Then, Altesse, why do you give her such lovely jewels?"

"Why, she admires them, and says she would like them, so I throw them to her!"

When the guest has waited for the dancing girls to withdraw, she takes leave of the Princess, who rises and gives her the Eastern salutation, touching the heart, lips and forehead with her hand, the guest doing the same. The attendants then conduct her to the outer hall, where other servants offer her a sweet kind of drink in large gold goblets of rare workmanship; then the eunuchs see her to her carriage and hand her in, her own footman not being allowed to enter the inner court-yard.

Those who have visited Egypt since the time of Ismail Khedive have never seen in his harem a reception such as I have described, as his ambition was to make his women appear Europeans, while he knew they were not. In the time of Said they were much purer in morals, and while they strictly adhered to their Mahometan customs you felt a respect for them which you cannot feel now, as then it was the true metal, but now only gilt. It is a curious fact that now the only ladies I know who adhere to the Oriental costume habits are the daughters of a Frenchman who became a Mahometan, and brought up his family strictly in the religion. They are very charming and cultivated, speaking five or six languages, and reading all the new magazines and reviews.—The Whitehall Review.

The state carriages are seldom used in England, for the curious reason, it is said, that the postillions would have to shave off their whiskers.

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